

## **The Future We Choose ISBN 978-1-83877-082-2**

I have previously mentioned this book by Figueres and Rivett-Carnac, and the 10 actions necessary to avoid the worst effects of climate change. Last month we started looking at each of those actions in more detail, and we began with “Let go of the Old World”. Now we come to a brief summary of the second chapter, **Face Your Grief but Hold a Vision of the Future.**

Even in the best-case scenarios of climate change, things are not going to stay as they are nor get back to the way we remember them. Global warming is already having an impact upon our weather, with resultant extinctions of animal and plant species and habitat loss. Glaciers and lakes are diminishing. Ancient bones and diseases are surfacing in the permafrost. We cannot hide from the grief that this is causing us. We need to grieve. But we also need to establish and hold fast to a vision of what we seek our world to be like. We need this to engender hope and action rather than despair and inaction. **“A compelling vision is like a hook in the future. It connects you to the pockets of possibility that are emerging and helps you pull them into the present. Hold on to that. Stay firmly fixed to a vision of the world you know is possible”.**

Vision is not the same as goals, but they often get confused. A goal, like halving CO2 emissions by 2030, helps us to achieve our vision; but if circumstances change and the goal is changed, we still need to be inspired by the vision to go forward. Vision is a powerful force. Do you remember the “I have a dream” speech by Martin Luther King, Jr.? At the time he gave it, everything looked hopeless; but his speech inspired, and is still inspiring, tremendous change. In the first half of this book the authors spelled out their vision of what our world could look like in 2050 if we take the necessary actions now. Imagination is essential, as we seek to envision our world as we want it to be and then work ceaselessly towards that vision. Yes, we need to grieve; but then use that grief to power our actions.

### **Rewilding the Sky**

Much has been discussed about the effects of the Covid-19 induced lull of activity on the planet, and whether this can be extended. The answer is that this can only produce limited results, since it has been calculated that a maximum of 10% of work can be done from home, and aviation accounts for only 7% of global oil consumption.

Vision of where we should be aiming is clear in an article in 21<sup>st</sup> August New Scientist. There the idea is discussed that we should be aiming not to halt the atmosphere’s destruction but **to return it to its pristine condition**. Lots of what is needed has been discussed before, but a new idea is to suck the methane out of the atmosphere; and that should be a lot easier than removing the CO2.

### **Plastic Hope**

I read in the Sunday Times that a British Company has developed biodegradable plastic that degrades into a harmless sludge within a year. Although this is hopeful, we still need to reduce our use of plastic and be careful how we dispose of it – particularly the millions of single use facemasks!

### **Arctic Record Temperatures this Summer**



The arctic Siberian town of Verkoyansk surpassed the symbolic 100F in June, ultimately reaching 38C. Svalbard, made famous in the book Northern lights, hit 21.7C in July. Climate change made the Siberian heatwave at least 600 times more likely. The Russian permafrost has not only been melting but burning.